

## INSPECTOR GENERAL



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## FROM THE IG

THIS BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS & IS A MEANS TO INFORM THE LEADERSHIP OF SYSTEMIC TRENDS & ISSUES THAT EXIST HERE AT FORT GORDON & WITHIN THE GREATER ARMY. SINCE WE WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH OTHER AGENCIES ON FT GORDON, WE WILL ALSO PROVIDE ARTICLES FROM THE OFFICES OF EAMC IG, FINANCE, SJA & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

KC

## SOLDIERS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

An overwhelming quantity of our workload involves processing requests for assistance from family members because soldiers are not complying with the provisions of AR 608-99, Family Support, Child Support and Paternity. This is a command issue.

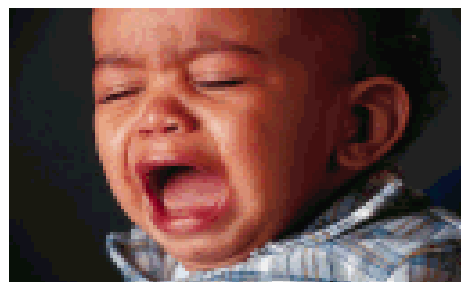
Soldiers are required to manage their personal affairs in a manner that does not bring discredit upon themselves or the United States Army and must provide child support and / or alimony under the following circumstances:

- Court orders regarding child support, alimony and paternity
- Financial support provisions of a written support agreement (e.g. separation agreements) in the absence of a court order
- If there is no court order or written agreement, a married soldier must comply with the minimum support provisions of AR 608-99, para 2-6.

However, in the absence of a court order (not a birth certificate) identifying a soldier as the father of a child and directing financial support, a male soldier has no legal obligations under AR 608-99 to provide financial support to a child alleged to have been born to him and the child's mother out of wedlock (whether the soldier's name is or is not on the child's birth certificate).

**COMMANDERS ROLE**

- Inform the soldier of the DA policy on support of family members.
- Process and respond to complaints of



nonsupport.

- Counsel soldiers when nonsupport complaints are brought against them.
- Conduct inquiries into allegations of nonsupport.
- Respond to all official messages and correspondence concerning nonsupport claims (AKA contact the complainant).
- Do not take on the role of "Judge Judy". It is not your role to determine paternity or if the soldier has to pay. If there is a court order, the soldier must comply.
- Review the Commander's Unit Financial Report looking for soldiers who have dependents but no allotments started.

## TRUE STORY

A NEW COMPANY COMMANDER WAS DIRECTED TO CONDUCT A CDR'S INQUIRY BY A POST IG. IAW AR 608-99, THE CDR CONTACTED THE COMPLAINANT. HOWEVER, HE INFORMED HER THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS SOLDIER WAS THE FATHER OF HER CHILD & DIRECTED HER TO PROVIDE HIM WITH A COPY OF THE DNA RESULTS.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

IG ANSWER: CDR'S ARE NOT COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR SOLDIERS (REMEMBER JUDGE JUDY?). IF THERE IS A COURT ORDER, THE SOLDIER MUST COMPLY.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EAMC IG

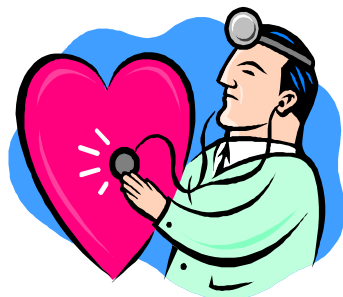
### DENTAL CARE for IET SOLDIERS

Recently, a commander raised a question over the DENTAC appointment policy for IET soldiers. It was expressed that permanent party personnel received priority over IET students often resulting in last minute cancellations of IET soldiers scheduled appointments. AR 40-35 governs dental treatment for IET soldiers, this regulation limits dental care for IET soldiers to emergency care only. IET soldiers will receive comprehensive and routine treatment upon arrival at their permanent duty station. The DENTAC is staffed and resourced to provide dental care to permanent party personnel only. The Ft Gordon DENTAC currently provides emergency dental care as required to IET students. If any dental clinics are scheduling IET soldiers for routine care they were wrong. This will not be done in the future.

The only exception to the above policy is for soldiers who will PCS overseas upon graduation from AIT. Health Affairs policy prevents soldiers from deploying overseas with Category III or IV dental problems. The soldiers who are deploying overseas after graduation are identified early and the DENTAC in coordination with the applicable commands make arrangements to have these soldiers treated prior to their PCS.

### EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH REFERRAL

In the past, commanders attempting to make an emergency mental health referral are often unable to reach a mental health care provider for an extended period. EAMC Mental Health Division implemented procedures for the past year that were attributable to the fact that the past year was interrupted to accept an incoming call for emergency providers are immediately interrupted. calls needing consultation.



*"They're taking my money..."*

*"Is this the IG? Listen... I need some help...."*



## BAS COLLECTION IN THE RANKS

Our Finance Office receives numerous pay inquiries regarding loss of BAS. Effective January 1, 2002 all military members except Basic Trainees draw full BAS at either the Standard Rate of \$241.60 or Rations In Kind Not Available RIKNA of \$262.50 a month. BAS is paid on a 30-day basis for all members except for members on active duty for a period less than 30 days.

If meals are provided by or on behalf of the Government then collection for those meals is made. Collection can be made by cash, payroll deduction or by offset/reduction of meal per diem. No one is entitled to a full BAS rate and free meals provided by the or on behalf of the Government.

Meal collections are made based upon the actual number of days in a month. Examples 1-28 February 2002 if the member were provided meals then collection would be made for 28 days. That same member would have 31 days collected for the month of July 2002. Additionally, the first and last days are collected at 25 percent of the daily

discount rate of \$6.75. For example, if a member was provided meals for 1-3 August 2002, then he/she would have collected \$1.68 for 1 Aug 2002 \$6.75 for 2 August 2002 and \$1.68 for 3 Aug 2002.

Members in a deployed status must also pay for Government meals provided at no cost. However, many reserve component members brought on active duty in a Temporary Change of Station (TCS) status in support of Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom are entitled to meal per diem and the government meals provided are off-set from the travel per diem.

BLUF—PAC NCOs need to screen pay inquiries.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Are soldiers who turn age 40 after 1 JAN 90 exempt from taking a record APFT until they are screened and approved by a medical professional?*

NO. See AR 40-501.

*Is it legal to conduct a weigh-in the day prior to the APFT?*

Yes. [AR 350-41, Chapter 9 <Policy/index.htm>](#) says individuals will be weighed when they take the APFT or every six months according to AR 600-9. [AR 600-9 <Policy/index.htm>](#) says that if the circumstances preclude weighing soldiers during the APFT, they should be weighed within 30 days of the APFT.

*I have a NCO that reported to the unit on 6 May 01. Due to some internal problems, the NCO was moved to another section effective 30 Jul & a change of rater report initiated. The NCO now states that the report was illegal because the rater did not have 90 rated days to render the report. Computing from May to July is three months so the report was submitted & processed. Please advise.*

The rated NCO is correct. 90 rated days is the minimum standard for a rater to render a change-of-rater report (except in a designated short-tour area). From 6 May - 30 July, both dates inclusive, it is only 86 days. Therefore the 90 day minimum was not met & the report should not have been rendered. The time should have reflected as non-rated time on the NCO's next NCO-ER with a non-rated code of 'Q'. Since the NCO-ER is already on file at EREC, an appeal must be submitted in order to have it removed.

*What are examples of mass punishment?*

\* Canceling all off post weekend passes because a few soldiers were caught underage drinking.

\* Making an entire unit report in Class A uniform on a weekend because a few soldiers were not in the proper uniform during the normal inspection

*If the unit is on a mission and a soldier requests to see the IG, do I have to let them go prior to the completion of the mission?*

It depends. Depending on the severity of the complaint, the chain of command should attempt to resolve the issue; however, the soldier should not be denied the opportunity to visit the IG. If the complaint is not severe, the soldier should be told that after completing their mission they may visit the IG. If unsure ... call the IG.

*I have a soldier who was late to formation 6 consecutive times, is it okay for me to have the soldier clean toilets for corrective training?*

No. IAW AR 27-10, para 3-3(2)c. Extra training or instruction. One of the most effective nonpunitive measures available to a commander is extra training or instruction (AR 600-20). It is used when a soldier's duty performance is substandard or deficient; for example, a soldier who fails to maintain proper attire may be required to attend classes on the wearing of uniform and stand inspection until the deficiency is corrected. The training or instruction must relate directly to the deficiency observed and must be oriented to correct that particular deficiency. Extra training or instruction may be conducted after duty hours.

*What is the leadership asking the IG Office?*



# Uniform Corner

*The Uniform Corner will identify trends in common uniform violations and late breaking changes to uniform policy. The source of information is AR 670-1 and MILPER messages.*

## Body Piercing Policy

You are getting a Cinnobun for your first line supervisor (although MAJ Carden could do with a little less sugar) & a male in civilian clothes walks by you with an earring in his ear. You are pretty sure he's a soldier what do you do?

- A. Nothing. It's okay for a soldier to wear an earring on post as long as he's in civilian clothes.
- B. Stop the soldier & inform him that it is against regulations for a male soldier to wear an earring while on post—regardless if he's in civilian clothes or not.
- C. Order another cinnobun for yourself as you're starting to get a sugar craving & head to the office.

**The correct answer is B.** Male soldiers cannot wear earrings on a military installation, regardless if they are on or off duty, in or out of uniform. And by the way ... this includes belly rings as well.

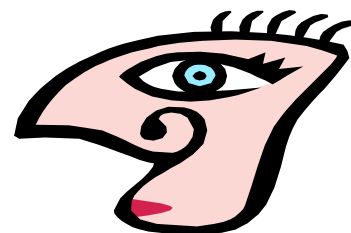
The official answer is: No attaching, affixing, or displaying objects, articles, jewelry or ornamentation to or through the skin, in uniform or civilian clothes, on or off duty, on any Army installation or other places under Army control (includes earrings for males). ***The only exception:*** females are authorized to wear prescribed earrings with service, dress, and mess uniforms. When wearing earrings with civilian clothes on duty, females must comply with the provisions of para 1-14c, unless otherwise authorized by the commander. There are no restrictions on the wear of earrings by females when they are off duty, on or off post. **OTJAG legal review:** the term "skin" is NOT confined to external skin, but includes skin inside the mouth, to include the skin of the tongue.

## Improved Physical Fitness Uniform (IPFU)

The mandatory possession date was 1 Oct 03. Issued in IET - all other soldiers must purchase. Consisting of short and long-sleeved t-shirt, trunks, running pants, jacket. There is no restriction on combination of components, unless prescribed for formations / unit PT.

Soldiers are authorized to wear it: on and off duty when engaged in PT, on and off post, if authorized; in transit between quarters & duty station; may wear all or part off post when authorized; shirt tucked inside the trunks, when worn as a complete uniform.

UNIFORM BOB SAYS ...



## Gortex Parka

Dear Bob: I've been in a joint assignment for the past couple of years & therefore out of the loop on some uniform changes. What's the straight story behind nametapes on a Gortex parka. Sincerely, Bossy in my BDUs.

Dear Bossy: So glad you asked. I've had to make several on the spot corrections this past week & am ready to set the record straight. The Nametape is mandatory on the Gortex parka. Dimensions are 1/2-inch wide, 3-1/2 inches long, 1/4-inch block letters that can accommodate up to 14 characters. It's worn on the left parka sleeve flap, 1/4-inch from bottom of flap, centered left to right. Rank can be either cloth rank insignia tab or pin-on rank and is worn on front tab of parka. The tab is sewn closed; velcro tabs are not authorized. Now go get yourself squared away!



## MANAGE YOUR MONEY

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS TRAVEL & LODGING

*It really happened.....*

A Fort Gordon NCO, on official TDY, elected to stay with relatives rather than stay in commercial hotel lodging, even though full per diem was authorized. The brother-in-law, who was also an Army NCO, requested the Fort Gordon Soldier pay the family an amount, which was less than what the Army would have reimbursed the soldier for commercial lodging. The brother-in-law convinced the soldier that the Army would reimburse based on a notarized receipt.

The claim was denied by DFAS citing Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR), chapter U4125, which states, "If a member stays with friends or relatives while on TDY, no cost for lodging is allowed, whether or not any payment is made to the friend or relative." To be reimbursed for travel, the receipt must be from a commercial provider or authorized government-lodging provider.

So the moral of this story is you have to have a hotel receipt in order to get reimbursement.

## FUNDRAISERS—

### BASIC INFORMATION FOR LEADERS

*The Army does not conduct fund-raisers. The Army as an institution does not solicit gifts.*



Any fundraising effort must observe the principle of true, voluntary giving. Any practice involving compulsion or coercion is prohibited. The following practices are specifically prohibited:

- Solicitation of soldiers/employees by their commander, supervisor, or any individual in their supervisory chain;
- Inquiries by a supervisor about subordinate's contribution;
- Noting an individual's participation or nonparticipation in that individual's performance appraisal or evaluation report;
- Developing and using lists of non-contributors;
- Providing and using contributor lists for purposes other than the routine collection and administration of contributions; and,
- **Granting of special favors, privileges, or entitlements, such as special passes or leave privileges, as an inducement to contribute.**
- Fundraising in the workplace (except CFC/AER).

Note to Commanders About "Informal Funds." Informal funds, such as cup-and-flower funds & funds maintained by unit readiness groups, are not covered by the Garrison policy. IAW AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, para 4-21, commanders may authorize informal funds. There is no set dollar limit on the assets of these funds, but funds collected in the form of dues or other collections are used for expenses consistent with the purposes and function of the fund. Operation of the funds will be consistent with Army values and the Joint Ethics Regulation. Commanders are responsible for monitoring the activities of any informal funds operating within their organizations. If an informal fund intends to fundraise outside of its own organization, the Garrison fundraising policy *will* apply (for example, a special fundraiser for a unit/office Christmas party, or a car wash conducted to raise money for a unit fund).